

In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown in accordance with the mandatory amendment format.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a completion packet at a receiving device, the completion packet including a completion header having a completor identification and a completion status;
determining whether the completion packet received from the identified completor is expected by the receiving device; and
discarding the completion packet if the completion packet is not expected;
wherein the receiving device includes a general input/output communication port implementing a communication stack including a transaction layer, a data link layer, and a physical layer, the transaction layer to receive the completion packet.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the completion packet is expected includes determining whether the completion packet corresponds to any outstanding requests previously issued by the receiving device.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising reporting an error condition.

4. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a completion packet at a receiving device, the completion packet including a completion header having a completion status and a completor identification;
determining whether the completion packet includes a completion status of the completion packet contains a value indicating a status other than successful; and

storing the completer identification in a first register if the completion status is other than successful;

wherein the receiving device includes a general input/output communication port implementing a communication stack including a transaction layer, a data link layer, and a physical layer, the transaction layer to receive the completion packet.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further including indicating in a second register that an unsuccessful completion was received if the completion status is other than successful.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising reporting an error condition if the completion status is other than successful.

7. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

servicing a request packet from a requesting device at a completer device, the request packet including a requestor identification and a tag;

transmitting a completion packet with a completion status other than successful from the completer device to the requesting device if an error condition exists;

storing the requestor identification at a location in the completer device if the error condition exists; and

indicating in a register in the completer device that a completion packet with a completer status other than successful was transmitted if the error condition exists;

wherein the completer device includes a general input/output communication port implementing a communication stack including a transaction layer, a data link layer, and

a physical layer, the transaction layer to receive the request packet and to transmit the completion packet.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising storing the tag at a location in the completor device if the error condition exists.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 [[9]], further comprising reporting the error condition if it exists.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~completion packet~~ further comprises completor identification includes a value that corresponds to an agent that completes the request and the [[a]] completion status includes a value indicating the status of the completion packet, wherein the status of the completion packet is at least one of a Successful Completion, an Unsupported Request, and a Completer Abort.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the completion status ~~packet~~ is expected further comprises examining the completor identification and the completion status of the completion packet determining whether the completion status is set as an unexpected result.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein a completion status other than successful may be at least one of an unsupported request, ~~a~~ completor abort, ~~malformed packet~~, and an unexpected completion.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein transmitting a completion packet further comprises returning no data with the completion packet for a read completion.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein a completion status other than successful may be at least one of an unsupported request, a completor abort, ~~malformed packet~~, and an unexpected completion.

16. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the completion header further includes a virtual channel ID field to identify a virtual channel of the completion packet.

17. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the completion header further includes an attribute field including at least one of the following attributes: a priority attribute, a transaction ordering attribute, and a cache coherency attribute.

18. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the completer identification includes a value that corresponds to an agent that completes the request.

19. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the completion header further includes: an attribute field including at least one of a priority attribute, a transaction ordering attribute, and a cache coherency attribute; and a virtual channel ID filed to identify a virtual channel of the completion packet.

20. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the completion packet includes a completion header having:

a completer identification including a value that corresponds to the completer agent; and

the completion status, wherein the completion status includes a value indicating the status of the completion packet.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the completion header further includes:

an attribute field including at least one of a priority attribute, a transaction ordering attribute, and a cache coherency attribute; and

a virtual channel ID filed to identify a virtual channel of the completion packet.